

COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC Polish and Soviet Installations in Gleiwitz.

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56-377

Box 15

DATE OF CONTENT prior to November 1951

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DATE PREPARED

26 June 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to November 1951, almost the whole of the barracks installation on Raudener Street in Gleiwitz (Q 51/Y 17) was occupied to capacity by a Polish infantry unit. The soldiers wore red cap bands and were equipped with small arms, and mortars and machine guns on handcarts when marching out of the installation. A large building of the installation was occupied by a Border Guard (WOP) unit having soldiers who wore green cap bands. Source stated that refugees arrested on the Polish-Czech border were interrogated in this building. (1)
2. The former Keith Kaserne located on the southwestern side of Friedrich Street was occupied by a Polish unit. In early 1951, source observed about six detachments of 100 men each marching out of the installation. The soldiers wore red cap bands and carried only small arms. Judging from the activities and the frequent exchange of the personnel, source believed that a training unit or a school was located there. (2)
3. Prior to November 1951, neither troops nor military installations were located in the barracks installation on the road to Klueschau. A section of the installation housed offices of government-controlled plants; a number of the departments of a chemical plant were located in other buildings. Prior to November 1951, the barracks installation on the municipal woods was used as a scientific school.
4. During recent years, the former post training ground north of the city was used only occasionally. The troops stationed at the post generally underwent combat training west of the city near Stichtersdorf and Stroppendorf.
5. After 1948, the Polish Military District Headquarters was located in the old municipal hospital in the southern sector of the city directly southwest of Peter-Paul's Church.
6. The district office of the Polish security police was located in the northwestern sector of the city, on the western side of Reichspräsident Square. The building formerly belonged to the Upper Silesian Mine Workers' Association. A large prison was located opposite the building.

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7. The district office of the Polish militia was located in a former home for the aged on former Seifuegelmarkt, a street northeast of the market place.
8. The former police headquarters building at the intersection of Friedrich and Teuchert Streets, which adjoined the Keith Kaserne to the southeast, quartered a Soviet guard unit of about 60 men. The rest of the building was occupied by offices of government-controlled concerns. (3)
9. The former pawnshop on the western side of Teuchert Street and southwest of the Keith Kaserne was occupied by a Soviet office. The installation was guarded by the unit located in the former police headquarters building. (3)
10. Apartment houses requisitioned for the dependents of Soviet officers were located on the northeast side of Friedrich Street and opposite the Keith Kaserne. (3)
11. Prior to September 1950, another resettler observed a barracks installation under construction south of the city on the east side of the road to Rybnik (P 55/R 50) and just north of an airfield. Only the brick walls of the two lateral wings were completed; yet the middle section of the building, which was about 150 meters long, was occupied by Soviet soldiers. Details on the branch of service, size, etc., were not known. (4)
12. A Soviet office to which Germans also had to apply for exit permits was located in a private house in the western sector of the city and on the northeastern side of Friedrich Street near the municipal hospital. Officers and EN of the office wore visor-type service caps with green bands. (4)

Comments.

- (1) The occupation of former Ulanen Kaserne on Raudener Street (ul. Rudzka) by a Polish infantry unit and a WOP unit confirms previous reports. See [redacted]. The units may be elements of the 76th Inf Div, which is carried in Bytom, and the 21st Border Guard Brig, the headquarters and one Border Guard battalion of which are carried in Gliwicz. The headquarters of the 21st Border Guard Brig was allegedly located on the southern edge of the city park on Miejska Alley (ul. Powstancow).
- (2) The occupation of the former Keith or Hindenburg Kaserne on ul. Kosciuszki (Friedrich Street) and ul. Zygmunt Starego (Teuchert Street) by a Polish army unit with light infantry weapons tends to confirm previous reports. [redacted] A section of the installation quartered Border Guard troops prior to September 1950.
- (3) The statements of the present report on the Soviet occupation of installations on Friedrich and Teuchert Streets supplement previous statements made in September 1950. [redacted] It is believed that source observed an MVI agency.
- (4) As the airfield is used by the Polish and Soviet Air Forces, it is fairly definitely believed that the Soviet unit observed in the new barracks installation belongs to the Soviet Air Force.

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